

Russians Routed On Three Fronts; 26,000 Captured

Czar's Troops Receive Worst Setback of War, Reports Reaching London from Eastern Theater of Conflict. Berlin Claims Huge Captures of Fleeing Muscovites Among the Masurian Lakes—War Material Left Behind by Russians in Retreat—Petrograd Claims Heavy German Re-enforcements Forced Troops to Fall Back. Eighty Miles Lost and Russians Now Rest Behind Own Fortified Lines in Poland, Dispatch States.

CZAR'S FRONT BROKEN IN STRYJ REGION, VIENNA CLAIMS; FIGHTING ALONG VISTULA

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.
London, Feb. 12.—All reports filtering in from the eastern theater of war, official and unofficial, show that the Russians have received the worst setback that has been given them since the war began.

In all sections of the long battle line in East Prussia, Galicia and Bukovina the Czar's forces have been forced to give ground before the terrific onslaughts of the Teutonic forces.

In Petrograd the admission was made, officially, that the Czar's forces have been forced to retire from East Prussia before the terrific offensive of the Germans and have been driven back over eighty miles to their own fortifications on the Kovno-Grodna-Lomcha line.

The Russian general headquarters states, however, that the retirement was due to the heavy re-enforcements sent to the Germans from the western theater of war, and that the Russians have elected to check the Germans on their own territory, within the shadow of their own forts.

In Bukovina and Galicia the Austro-German forces gradually have forced the Russians to retreat, have repulsed all attacks by the Czar's troops.

The following official statement was received tonight from Petrograd:

"In East Prussia, between the Lower Niemen and the Vistula small actions have been fought at five points, namely: near Margrabowa; near Lyck; a point halfway between Ostroleka and Mysyniec; west of Mysyniec and in the region of Sierpe.

26,000 Russians Captured.

"In Central Poland on the west bank of the Vistula, there are only cannonades to report. Our artillery, however, has been very successful.

"In the Carpathians we have repulsed the attacks of the enemy in the districts of Skidnik (near Wyszow), and of Potowul (in the neighborhood of Rostok, near the frontier of Bukovina)."

The German statement received by wireless from Berlin says:

"Emperor William has arrived in the eastern theater.

"The Russians have been compelled to abandon their positions east of the Niemen. The fighting is still proceeding. Up to date we have taken 26,000 prisoners, twenty guns, thirty machine guns, and a large quantity of war material."

"On the right bank of the Vistula the Germans are continuing their offensive against Sierpe. In these operations we have taken 10,000 prisoners."

Austrian troops have succeeded in breaking through the Russian front in the region of Stryj and forced the Czar's troops to retire. It has been officially announced in Vienna today.

STEAMER, TORPEDOED, CREEPS INTO PORT

Big British Ship Makes Slip in Sinking Condition—Struck Eight Miles Off Scarborough.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.
London, Feb. 12.—The big steamer Torquay was towed into Scarborough Harbor in a sinking condition today as a result, it is believed, either of having been torpedoed by a German submarine or by striking a mine.

The vessel was badly damaged amidships. One of its boilers was penetrated, the explosion killing one fireman and injuring two others.

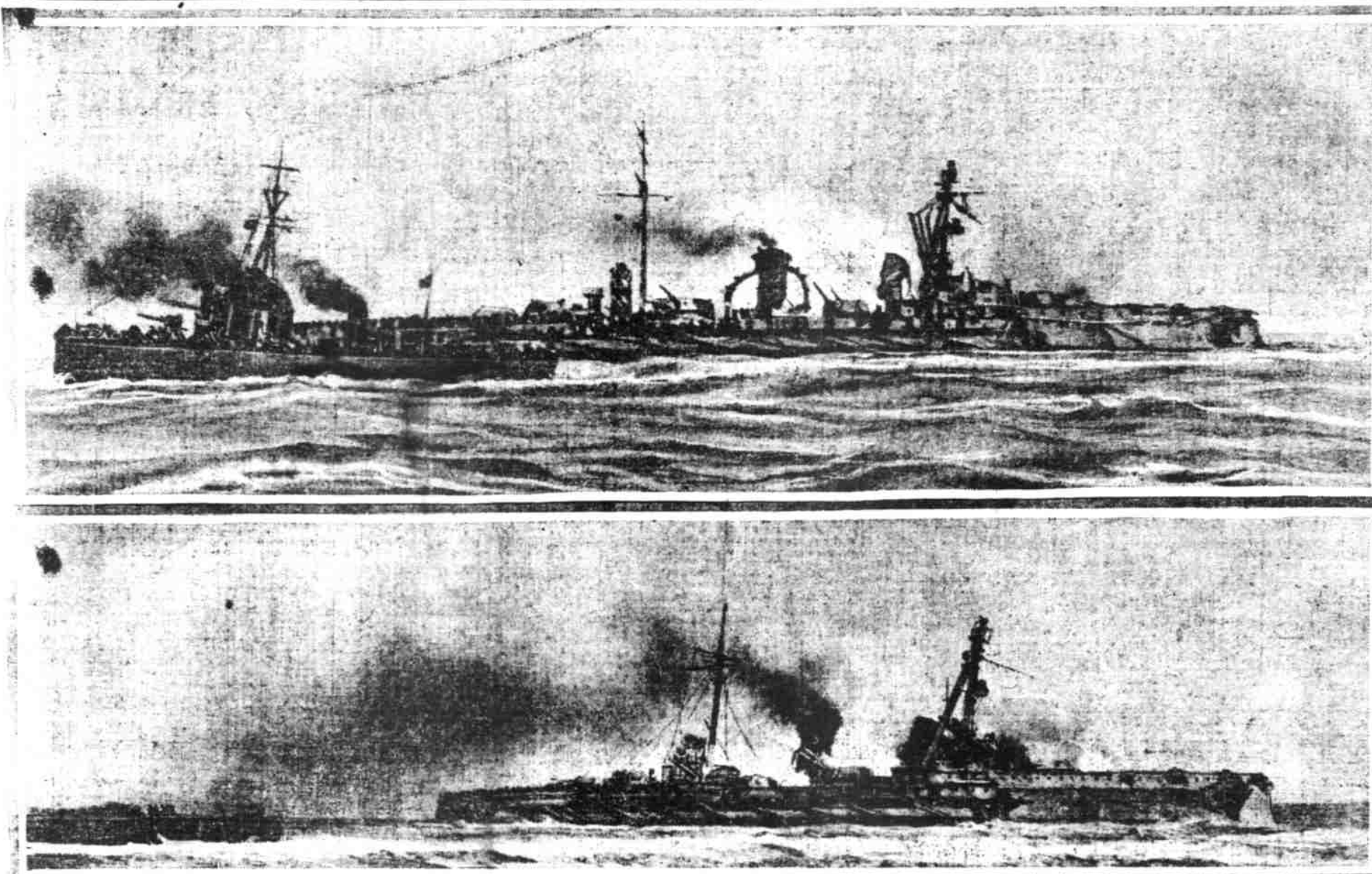
RAID ON WIRELESS FAILS.

Mysterious Quartet in Auto Halted by Barbed Wire at Sayville.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.
New York, Feb. 12.—A mysterious raid on the wireless station at Sayville, L. I., where the message from Germany is received, was frustrated today by the barbed-wire entanglements about the station.

Four men in an automobile comprised the raiding party and when stopped by the barbed wire drove away without replying to the calls of attaches who desired to know their business.

SINKING OF GERMAN CRUISER BLUECHER



The upper view shows the German battle cruiser Bluecher, disabled by gunfire from the British Dreadnoughts, awaiting the final torpedo which will sink her. The larger British warships have drawn off in pursuit of the escaping German fleet and have left a destroyer to finish the helpless cruiser. The photograph was taken after the destroyer had signalled "We are going to torpedo you, save yourselves," and the course of the deadly missile may be described through the water.

The lower photograph shows the Bluecher as the torpedo exploded in her vitals. She is listed heavily to port and about to turn clear over. Flames from the interior explosion are breaking out amidships. All of the crew which remained alive are lined up on the afterdeck singing "Die Wacht am Rhine." The British destroyer which fired the torpedo is seen speeding away. She circled around and picked up many survivors from the sunken ship.

AIR HOSTS SWOOP DOWN ON TEUTONS

Thirty-four Aeros and Seaplanes Bombard Positions on Belgian Coast.

BOMBS DO MUCH DAMAGE

Daring Fliers Return Safely—Graham-White Falls Into Sea, but is Rescued by French Vessel.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

London, Feb. 12.—The most brilliant air raid yet recorded stands to the credit of the British naval aviators, who, with thirty-four aeroplanes and seaplanes, wrought much damage within the German lines on the Belgian coast. The details of the raid, as far as is known, were given in tonight's admiralty bulletin as follows:

"During the last twenty-four hours combined aeroplane and seaplane operations have been carried out by the naval wing in the Brugge, Zeebrugge, Blankenberg, and Ostend districts, with a view to preventing the development of the German submarine bases and establishments.

"Thirty-four aeroplanes and seaplanes participated in the operations and great damage is reported to have been done to the Ostend railway station, which probably was burned to the ground. The railway station at Blankenberg was damaged and the railway lines were torn up in many places.

"Bombs were dropped on the gun positions at Middlekerke and also on the power station and the German mine sweepers at Zeebrugge, where the extent of the damage is unknown.

No Submarines Seen.

"During the attack heavy banks of snow were encountered. No submarines were seen.

"Flight Commander Claude Grahame-White fell into the sea off Nieuport and was rescued by a French vessel. Although exposed to heavy gun fire from rifles, anti-aircraft guns and quick-firing guns, all the pilots returned safely, and but two of the machines were damaged during the raid.

"The operations were under the command of Wing Commanders Sampson and Longmore and Squadron Commanders Porter, Courtney and Rathbourne. Commander C. R. Sampson, who directed the attack and brought all his men safely back, already has a brilliant reputation as a raider, both in the air and on land. His exploits with armored automobiles caused the Kaiser to offer a big reward for his capture, dead or alive.

Commander J. C. Porter just before the war was preparing to attempt a flight across the Atlantic from the American side.

The operations were framed with the intention of damaging or destroying the works along the Belgian coast, which the Germans were attempting to establish as a threat against British naval power.

Paris, Feb. 12.—The German military aerodrome at Habsheim, Alsace, was the object of an aerial raid by five French aviators today. The aviators dropped a number of bombs on the structure.

GERMAN ADVANCE WORRIES JOFFRE

French Commander Takes Special Measures to Meet Teutons' Violent Offensive in the Argonne.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.
Paris, Feb. 12.—The German offensive in the Argonne has taken on such a grave character that Gen. Joffre has resorted to special measures to meet it.

The crown prince still is in supreme command of the Germans in this district, but tactical operations are in the hands of Gen. von Muller, operating with a Metz army corps, one of the finest in the empire, and companies of first-line troops for forest hostilities.

Von Mulla is an extremely capable general, and despite stubborn French resistance, has progressed considerably in the last month. This week, however, Joffre's new dispositions have completely paralyzed Von Mulla's efforts.

POSTMAN SHOULD BOW TO CALENDAR MAKER

By Fortunate Circumstance Crop of Valentines Will Be Split Up.

The postman will worry less about St. Valentine's Day this year than has been his usual custom. In fact, he has two days of "wee worries" instead of one of big troubles. The man who made the calendar has conferred a distinct favor upon the letter carrier, because St. Valentine's Day falls on Sunday instead of one of the week days.

Of course the children and their immediate predecessors in the "seven ages" will have two days for the receipt of endearing notes and beautiful cards, but they have been favored by the holiday-maker just as much as the postal employee. Instead of one St. Valentine they may have two.

Naturally, the day will be celebrated on Monday, but many of the seminaries, girls' schools and societies will hold their dances tonight.

COMMON CURS LICK DARLING LITTLE PET

And Louise Pippard, Rendered "Sick, Sore, and Lame," Would Like \$10,000 Damages.

Louise Pippard, of Georgetown, has a darling little dog, which she characterizes as "tame and lovable."

Irene Wigmore, also of Georgetown, has two big bulldogs, which Louise says are "immense, vicious and dangerous."

The Pippard dog, tame and lovable, took an afternoon stroll April 16, 1914, along O street between Twentieth and Twenty-first streets. The Wigmore bulldog sighted the pet and made a vicious assault upon him, as a result of which the little darling has depreciated \$100 in value.

But the shock of the assault! Louise says she has been "rendered sick, sore, lame and disordered" from worrying over the little darling and wondering whether it would develop rabies. Such are her allegations, and yesterday she instituted suit for \$10,000 damages against Irene Wigmore, whose bulldogs caused all the trouble.

627.75 New Orleans, \$25.25 Mobile and return Feb. 15 via Norfolk & Western Ry. Inquire 1419 N. Y. Ave.—Adv.

OLD SHIP BILLS MERGED IN NEW

Latest Administration Measure to Be Put Through the House for Effect on Senate.

VOTE ON CLOTURE NEAR

Only Obstacle Is Norris Amendment, Which Democrats Would Have Him Withdraw.

In a shipping bill approved by President Wilson and composed of the Weeks' Naval Auxiliary bill and the Gore bill, supplemented by a two-year termination clause, leaders of the House believe they have found a compromise which can be put through that body for the "good moral effect" it will have on the Senate.

However, it is not believed the bill will become a law at this session, though it may be passed by the House early next week.

The Weeks bill, which authorizes the Secretary of the Navy to establish lines between the United States, South America and Europe but appropriates only \$200,000 for putting ships already owned by the government into such service, has been before the Naval Committee of the House for some time. The bill also provides for the use of these craft under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy.

Provides Forty Millions.

The Gore bill, introduced in the Senate as a substitute for the administration shipping bill, provides an appropriation of \$40,000,000 for the acquisition of ships by the government and their operation in the merchant marine under the supervision of a shipping board to consist of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, the Postmaster General and three civilians.

The compromise bill, if enacted, would permit the United States to acquire merchant vessels and operate them as an emergency measure during the next two years, at the expiration of which time the Gore section of the bill will go from the statute books, leaving the Weeks bill in force.

The powers of the shipping board and the bills obtained under the authorization of the Gore measure will be taken over by the Secretary of the Navy, who will have power to operate lines between the United States, South America and Europe at his discretion and the discretion of the President.

To Appear Next Week.

The consolidated bill, which is expected to appear in the House early next week, probably will be brought up through a special rule discharging the naval committee from consideration of the Weeks bill.

According to reports, the President will call a special session of Congress if the bill outlined does not become a law at this session.

A motion made by Senator Reed, of Missouri, to proceed to the consideration of a closure rule, which he has pending, ending debate and fixing February 19 as the date for voting on the ship-purchase bill, was passed by a tie vote, the Vice President casting the deciding vote.

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POLAND TO BECOME KINGDOM, IS REPORT

Petrograd, Feb. 12.—Poland has been proclaimed an independent state, and soon will choose a king, according to a dispatch from an apparently authentic source here today.

According to the dispatch, Poland's independence has been recognized by Germany and Austria, to become operative February 14. The Poles will hold a convention and name a monarch, the report says, that same day at Cracow, Galicia. The crown will be offered to Archduke Carl Stephen, of Austria, it is believed.

FOUR AGED PERSONS SLAIN BY ROBBERS

Similar Crimes Are Committed in Widely Separated Localities.

Gibsonburg, Ohio, Feb. 12.—Mrs. Joseph Kimbel, a farmer aged seventy, was brutally murdered and her aged husband, Joseph Kimbel, seventy-two, fatally beaten by unknown murderers intent on robbery, six miles west of here early today.

The sheriff of Wood County, in the edge of which the crime was committed, has put bloodhounds on the trail.

Oakland, Cal., Feb. 12.—Beaten to death by burglars who first bound them with ropes, Jacob Vogel, former president of the Citizens' Bank of Fruitvale, and his wife were murdered in their home today.

KAISER OFFERS ITALY FIUME FOR WAR AID

News Agency Dispatch Quotes Anonymous Statesman on Alleged Proposal of Prince von Buelow.

ROME, Feb. 12.—A news agency sends out an interview with an anonymous statesman, who says Prince von Buelow, the German Ambassador, has offered the port of Fiume to Italy on condition that she joins Austria and Germany not later than March.

Hungary, the story goes, will be compensated for the loss of Fiume by the annexation of Serbia and Albania, and this will get an outlet to the Adriatic. The offer was approved by Baron von Burian, the imperial premier.

VILLISTAS REPORTED ROUTED.

Repulsed in Attack on Guadaluajara with Loss of 500.

Vera Cruz, Mexico, Feb. 12.—Three thousand Villa troops attacking Guadaluajara were completely defeated by Carranza troops commanded by Gen. Diegues and Murguia, according to advices received here today.

The Villa forces lost nearly 500 in killed and wounded. Many prisoners also were taken and much ammunition captured.

To Read Washington's Address.

The Vice President yesterday designated Senator George Sutherland, of Utah, to read Washington's Farewell Address before the Senate February 22, birthday of the "Father of His Country." This exercise is carried out annually by the Senate.

U. S. DEMANDS KAISER EXPLAIN

Delay to Diplomatic Dispatches Cause Second Note to Germany.

EXPECT PROMPT APOLOGY

Holding Up Official Mail to Luxembourg Not Looked on as Serious Difficulty.

The State Department yesterday instructed Ambassador Gerard to call to the attention of the German government the complaint of Minister Van Dyke at The Hague that his official dispatches to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg had been held up by a German military commander at Trèves.

According to Mr. Van Dyke's report, official communications from the American legation at The Hague, which is also accredited to Luxembourg and bearing the United States seal, had been seized by this German military commander and withheld from their destination.

Prompt Remedy Expected.

Mr. Gerard was instructed to remind the Berlin government that the inviolability of diplomatic dispatches is a universally recognized right of governments and their representatives in all countries, and to express the confidence of the United States government that Germany would promptly remedy the situation with regard to Mr. Van Dyke's communications.

Officials here are of the opinion that the interference with Minister Van Dyke's dispatches was not authorized by the German government but was merely the act of a subordinate with an exaggerated idea of his rights and duties.

There is great confidence that Germany will promptly disavow the act, express regret at the occurrence, and give assurances that the incident will not be repeated.

Many Similar Cases.

The United States diplomatic history contains a large number of cases of this kind, the result of which has been that the offending government, whether the United States or a foreign government, has promptly apologized and given assurances against a recurrence of such interference.

It was recalled yesterday that interference with diplomatic dispatches was one of the charges brought against Huerta by President Wilson in his appeal to Congress for support in the occupation of Vera Cruz. It was generally understood, however, that the offense in itself was not such a serious issue, but that it was desired to use it as one of the reasons in justification of the administration's course toward Huerta.

Submarine Halts Dutch Ship.

Rotterdam, Feb. 12.—The Dutch steamer Zuiderdijk was stopped by a German submarine in the North Sea and compelled to show its papers. The vessel then was allowed to proceed to its port.

Baltimore & Ohio to Baltimore.

\$1.15 round trip every Saturday and Sunday, good returning until 9 a. m. Monday.—Adv.

GERMANS SCOFF AT U. S. PROTEST; BRITISH SILENT

Berlin Papers Adopt Belligerent Attitude on War Zone Protest.

ENGLISH BLAME TEUTONS

Neutrals' Rights Scorned by Influential Member of Reichstag.

ADMINISTRATION IS SATISFIED

Rests on Oars, Pending Replies to Notes—Expects Approval of Country to Action.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

London, Feb. 12.—A dispatch to the London Star from Copenhagen says German newspapers received there state that if any American ship is sunk as a result of disregarding Germany's injunction regarding danger in the recently established war zone, America must bear the responsibility and that Germany will not be influenced from outside quarters.

The Berlin Der Tag prints an interview with Herr Erzberger, an influential member of the Reichstag, in which the statesman discusses the German blockade declaration and its effect on neutral countries.

Denies Neutrals' Rights.

"Neutrals have no right to make claims," says Herr Erzberger, "but Germany may allow them something as a favor. The blockade does not mean that Germany will ignore the wishes of the neutrals as far as they do not endanger the German war plan. But neutrals cannot obtain anything by threats or protests, but only by the free will of the German government."

Declaring that the time will come when a new method of warfare and a new law for the sea will arise, the Kreuzzeitung says that first of all England's domination of the sea must be destroyed. Until then the paper says discussions of the international law phase of the battle, which are now but beginning, "are not worth the papers they are written on."

That Germany did not mean that the blockade of the English coast should make neutral trade impossible, was the statement published in the Neue Hamburger Zeitung. The paper says that the German declaration was meant as a warning to neutrals against the dangers in the English waters and that Germany would not accept the responsibility for the safety of neutral ships sailing in those waters.

Foreign Office Silent.

There was no talk about hostile measures being taken against neutral shipping, the paper states, the German admiralty's intention being to refrain from such measures, provided neutral ships by mutual understanding do not carry contraband.

The British foreign office maintained a strictly silent attitude on the American note to Great Britain concerning the sinking of American ships and the use of the American flag. Sir Edward Grey, the foreign minister, will call the cabinet into session as soon as the full text of the note is received. Until the cabinet has taken up the matter no official announcement or reply is expected to be made.

The newspapers, commenting editorially on the note, assert that Great Britain is acting not only in national interest, but in the interest of humanity and civilization. Germany is blamed for the situation, and the papers defend the use of the American flag.

Expect Early Replies.

Reflection of the effect of the United States notes to Germany and to Great Britain is now awaited in Washington. Officials here are confident that within a very short time there will be indications of the manner in which the statement of views by this government on the subject of the misuse of the American flag and the proposed German operations in the new war zone is to be received.

The administration is well satisfied with the reception given the publication of the notes in this country. Officials believe that the country will approve them as frank and vigorous statements of the United States' position and in defense of the rights of this country as a non-combatant in the present war.

It was explained yesterday that the German note necessarily gives an impression of greater severity than does the note to Great Britain because of the fact that the one discusses laws, while the other deals with merely a practice. The communication to Great Britain makes a request that a practice be discontinued out of regard for its possible effect upon American interests, while the note to Germany lodges a vigorous protest against supposedly contemplated operations which this government regards as indefensible and beyond all rules of civilized warfare.

England Calls Fresh Thousands.

London, Feb. 12.—That England needs a stronger fighting force was manifest today when the military authorities called upon all those who signed the recent census expressing their willingness to enlist when asked to do so.

"At the Throat of the British Empire"

WHERE the Kaiser threatens to choke his foe, and Egypt, the great crossroads of the world, the greatest prize at stake in the game of war which the empires are playing. The most interesting of the series of articles dealing with the war scarred battlefields of Europe by James Morgan.

2,000 AVIATORS WANTED FOR U. S. POSTAL SERVICE

A fact—not a dream of the future. These are but two whole pages of intensely interesting reading in the twelve-page magazine section—just one section of tomorrow's Sunday Herald. In addition there will be the usual array of good reading—

The best, most complete Society Section.
The best, most complete Sport Section.
The best, most complete Dramatic Section.
The best Comic Supplement, in four colors.
The best, most complete News Section.
Place your order this morning with your news dealer for tomorrow's issue of

The Washington Herald

Another opportunity to test your skill and share in the \$50 in gold offered by Washington auto dealers will also be found in tomorrow's Sunday Herald.